Che Library Assistant:

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ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE. Special Notice.

The Annual Meeting and Conference of the Association will be held in London on Wednesday, June 20th. The Committee are making special efforts to make this meeting unique in the history of the Association, and extend a cordial invitation to all members and their friends; they would specially welcome a tooroughly representative gathering of provincial members. The cheap excursion facilities generally offered on Wednesdays in summer should make this gathering quite feasible.

The following interesting programme has been arranged:

2.30 P.M. Meet at the BRITISH MUSEUM. By the kindness of G. K. Fortescue, Esq., Keeper of the Printed Books, the members will be

received and conducted over the National Library

4.45 P.M. St. Bride Institute, Bride Lane, Fleet Street, E.C. Tea will be served in Room No. 18. A charge of 7d. per head will be made for tea. It is hoped that all members will meet at this function.

5.30 P.M. Counting of Ballot for Committee.
6.15 P.M. Address: "The L.A.A.: What it is doing and what it may

do," by Mr. Geo. E. Roebuck.

Special Provincial Paper: "Librarianship in the Future," by Mr. Walter Powell, Sub-Librarian, Birmingham Public Libraries.

8.15 P.M. ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING. Announcement of Ballot for Committee, and the Election of Officers. Presentation of the Annual

Report. Chairman's Address, etc.

It would facilitate matters if members who wish to be present at tea (and we hope all will be) will send a postcard to that effect on or before the 15th June to Mr. W. C. Berwick Sayers, Central Library, Town Croydon.

Members unable to be present at all parts of the Meeting will be welcomed to any part; but the Committee wishes particularly to draw attention to the Business Meeting, when matters of interest to all members

will be discussed.

PROPOSED VISIT TO CLAYDON.

By the kind invitation of Sir Edmund Verney, Bart., it is proposed to visit Claydon, Bucks, on Wednesday, July 4th. All assistants interested in the problem of village libraries should take this opportunity of seeing the model institutions in the villages of East Claydon, Middle Claydon, and Steeple Claydon, where Sir Edmund's zeal and initiative have done so much to solve the problem for the fortunate inhabitants of these villages.

The party will leave Baker Street (Met. Rly.) at 2.20 p.m., and the reduced fare is 4s. od. return. As it is necessary to guarantee a minimum number of passengers, all intending to be present are requested to communicate with Mr. W. Goo. Chambers, Public Library, Plumstead, at an Full details will be sent to those signifying their intention to

be present. This being the first excursion of the kind that has been arranged for some years, the Committee hopes that members will respond in large numbers, and thus show their appreciation of Sir Edmurd's kindness.

Ladies are specially invited to join the party.

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MAY MEETING.

By kind invitation of Mr. Cecil T. Davis (the Librarian), the May meeting of the Association was held at the Wandsworth Public Library on Wednesday, May 16th. There was a fair attendance of members and

After light refreshment, generously provided by Mr. Davis, the chair was taken by Mr. Councillor A. R. Gridley, Chairman of the Wandsworth Public Libraries Committee. Mr. Councillor Luscombe (Wandsworth) was also present.

The first business was the election of two members to audit the accounts of the Association, and for this purpose Messrs. W. A. Peplow and J. D. Young were appointed.

Mr. George R. Bolton (South Branch Library, Fulham) then read a

paper entitled:

WORK AT THE SHELVES: A DAY IN AN OPEN ACCESS LIBRARY.

in which he dealt principally with the method of arrangement.

following is a summary of the paper:

In submitting this brief paper for your consideration it is not my intention to discuss, more than I can possibly help, the advisability or otherwise of adopting the open access system, but to place before you my own personal experience in a library where that system is in vogue. This I will endeavour to do looking at the matter from the official as well as the public point of view.

There are several notable features about an open access library which appeal to the public. Ine borrower sees that it is a place where a good deal of "red tape" is cut away, and the absence of the indicator—a source of annoyance to many readers-is pleasing to them. They are able to scan a book through before taking it out for home reading, and therefore obtain a better idea of its contents. In this way borrowers become better acquainted with the contents of the library.

As to the arrangement of the library, if it is not possible to have a clear floor, and to place all the book presses round the walls, they should be so arranged that the gangways run at right angles with the counter, thus giving the staff good oversight. The books should be arranged according to some logical scheme of classification; fiction being in alphabetical order of author. The counter should be small. With a counter about five or six feet in length it is quite possible for one assistant to work it and to issue 80 or 90 books an hour. By working the counter, I mean receiving and issuing books. For issuing purposes a system of card charging is employed. A double wicket with duplicate issue counter may be fixed, and the public can then be served more expeditiously at busy times. It is generally impossible to replace books on the shelves directly they are returned, and it is therefore advisable to have a shelf on which they can be exhibited until such time as they can be placed on their proper shelves.

Ample guides should be provided to aid readers in their search for books. A synopsis of the classification used, and class lists of the books contained in the library, will aid the borrower to a great extent. All the staff should be in a position to explain the working of the library. The best method of labelling the books is by gold lettering. The method of affixing white gummed tabs is not quite so lasting, as the labels become dirty through constant handling.

As to the routine work of the assistant in an open access library, after the usual morning duties of dating stamps and straightening shelves he checks the books "In" by a shelf list on cards. A section of the library is taken each day so that, if possible, all the books may be checked once a week. The issues are made up hourly. The cards are then placed in a tray and arranged in strict order according to the classification, and next morning the issue is registered in the books for that purpose.

I do not advocate the mixing of juvenile books promiscuously with the

other books. They should be set apart on separate shelves.

In an open access library the catalogue is not used to such an extent as in a library where the borrowers are not permitted access to the books. Borrowers become quite familiar with the arrangement of the library, and it is quite usual for them to go straight to the shelves containing the class of books they require. An up-to-date card catalogue is, however, desirable.

A brisk discussion followed the reading of the paper, after which the two senior papers printed below were read. Unfortunately Mr. Hatcher was unable to be present, and his paper, which arrived too late in the evening to permit of much discussion on it, was read by Mr. Sayers.

BRANCH LIBRARIES.

By F. Dallimore, Sub-Librarian, Wimbledon.

I suppose you all know the opening chapter of Goldsmith's "Vicar of Wakefield," in which he says that he considers a man who marries and brings up a large family of far more service in the world than one who remains single. So we may say that a library which spreads out its influence by opening out branches in the very mass of the population, and brings home to the many the books which they need, does a far greater work than one that remains single and isolated.

The central library, however, should not be starved for the sake of branches, and in no place should branches be opened unless the income is sufficient to maintain them, for one good library is better than two poor ones. To accede to the cry for branches at every corner to counteract the public-houses would result in poor libraries.

Taking the central library as the base, its position in regard to centrality (i.e., geographically, so far as a town, city or district is concerned) is of small moment. It may or may not be situated in that part where the population is densest. It may or may not be near to the car lines, but we must take it that it is the principal library. As such it must necessarily contain the largest collection of volumes, and must, in the ordinary course of time grow increasingly inadequate in accommodation in proportion as the population increases and readers become more numerous. Branch libraries then must be established to relieve the pressure, and in most towns or boroughs the density of population should decide the position.

As to when and where a branch is necessary, it would be well to keep the following considerations in view: (1) Relative density of population. (2) Distance between each library and those nearest to it. (3) Accessibility, that each be, if possible, on or near a main line of traffic. These factors decide position only. The financial question will arise when it comes to the matter of a site, and this, together with the area of the ground available for the site, will decide whether the library is to consist of one or two stories.

The size of each branch, of course, should vary according to the population it has to supply, but the minimum accommodation should be a lending library, a collection of reference books, a reading room, and a juvenile room. The idea of having a juvenile room in each branch is that by providing such a room near the homes of the children it is reasonable to expect that they will be more largely used than if the children had some distance to go.

The internal arrangement of a branch is most important. If possible the whole of the rooms should be on one floor. This gives better super-

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vision, thus effecting a saving in the number of assistants and in the amount paid for salaries. But the surroundings may be such as prohibit lighting being obtained save by frontage or from sides. In such case a two-storey building would be advantageous, and the added cost to staff would be considerably less than the cost of artificially lighting dark portions of the rooms during the day. The juvenile room should have a separate entrance, which, if possible, should lead straight into the room. I will not go into dimensions, but the best arrangement is to have a double counter dividing the room into two parts. The boys and girls are thus separated, and yet one assistant is able to supervise both. Behind this counter the juvenile books could be stored; that is, of course, if the juveniles be not allowed open shelves.

To give the public the full advantage of all the libraries there should be an interchange of books. Say a borrower from No. 1 branch desires a book that is in No. 2 branch, the Librarian will enquire by telephone if it is in, and if so the book is sent on to the branch at which the reader wishes to call for it. The request form, which is sent on by post after ascertaining that the book is in, stands as a receipt for the book. Thus a book may be taken out at No. 1 branch by a borrower from No. 2 branch, and may be returned to No. 3 branch, making the resources of all the libraries available to the public.

To cope with the demand for popular books a floating stock may be collected, and placed in any library where the demand is greatest. Thus readers will have no reason to complain that certain books which are in the catalogue are never in the library. Should the demand decrease the

stock may be sent on to another library.

In the selection of stock due regard must be given to the industries of the district in which the library is situated. The principle of variation should be adopted so far as general classes go. One branch may be strong in Useful Arts, another in Fine Arts and so on. This principle is not applicable to Fiction, for as likely as not Fiction must be similar in items selected, the demand for a popular author's works being as great east as west. Where funds permit Fiction may be made a little more complete than is now the case. It should be possible in a large town to have, distributed throughout the whole of the branches, such out of print books in this class as would enable a student to read chronologically the works of such seventeenth century writers as Mrs. Radcliffe and Aphra Behn. Bulky volumes or works running to a dozen or more volumes should find no place at a branch library simply because they are "standard" works. The inclusion of such volumes in two or more branches is unnecessary-the libraries should contain books complementary to each other, and the whole of the branches should be supplementary to the Central Library.

To illustrate this system of complementary and supplementary books, take the subject Geology. In one branch we may have Sir A. Geikie's "Class book of Geology"; in a second his "Text book of Geology"; and in a third J. Geikie's "Structural and Field Geology." To make this principle work successfully the branches should be liberally stocked with primers and works of a readable character. Most readers have not the time nor the inclination to go through exhaustive works. If urged that "standard" books are needed by the professional man, even if not by the man in the street, I would with all respect point out that the work which is necessary to the professional man in his everyday calling will, as likely as not, be found on his own bookshelf. It is probable that he will prefer to search out his information at home, in his own time, rather than spend that time in a reference library, and lose additional time travelling to and fro, and where he may possibly have to wait for the book required. Hence it follows that such a man would not use the lending section for requisitioning what might be termed his "tools," but would rather make use of the branch as a whetstone to keep an edge on those "tools" he has already handled. In other words, his reading being desultory, the current periodicals devoted to his profession supply him with particulars of the latest developments in "tabloid" form, and these doses he supplements from handbooks devoted to the latest phases of scientific development or discovery.

The same principle of variation should be applied to the selection of periodicals and magazines, and these should be available for loan after they have been removed from the tables, thus giving the public not only the choice of the best books, but also the cream of current literature.

Now as to staff. I myself am in favour of a stationary staff. We all know that once in a library one becomes acquainted with the needs of the borrowers, and as good, at least, as a step-mother to them. If we have a rolling staff, this benefit is denied the borrowers, but it is no doubt better for the staff, and I suppose we must consider them first, as one of our objects should be their training. Thus this demands the interchange from one branch to another with a turn at the central.

To sum up we may say that the one aim of a branch is an attempt to bring home the books to the public, and as we are not inclined to deliver them from door to door, we must, to use a Lancashire phrase, "make shift" with branches.

BRANCH LIBRARIES.

By S. A. HATCHER, Librarian, Canning Town.

As there are two other papers down for reading and discussion this evening, one dealing with the same subject as myself, I have not attempted to write an exhaustive treatise on branch libraries, but have contented myself with jotting down a few notes more to suggest points for discussion than to expound my views on a certain phase of library administration.

The establishment of branch libraries is a question which all library authorities have to consider sooner or later, and no hard and fast rule can be made to decide when and where a branch is necessary. Some argue that a library should be established for every 10,000 inhabitants; others that no person should have to travel more than a certain distance to the nearest library. The conditions in different towns being so varied, it must be left entirely for local circumstances to decide.

Selection of Site.—When a branch library is decided upon, great care should be exercised in selecting a suitable site, the future development of the district being borne in mind, for once erected the library is a fixture, and is to serve future generations as well as the present. If the land is to be purchased, a saving can often be effected if the preliminary negotiations are conducted unofficially. The price of land is often very much increased when it is known that a corporate body desires to purchase it.

Size.—The size of a branch library is governed largely by the question of finance and the possible demand of the public. The public rooms should all be on the ground floor, partitioned off by glass screens, so as to give a maximum supervision with a minimum of staff. A good branch library can be built on a site 50ft. square.

Branch Libraries v. Delivery Stations.—Delivery stations at their best are but poor makeshifts for branches. If worked without outside assistance, and with evening reading-room attached, their cost and the work they entail, compared with the use made of them, is out of all proportion with the other departments of the library service. A small branch library, which would be far more useful and popular, can be run almost as cheaply.

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Relationship of Staff, Central and Branches.—The staff at a branch library need not be considered particular to it; a system of interchange of staff between the central and branch libraries is often an advantage. By this means assistants have a better opportunity of acquiring an all-round knowledge of the duties of their profession or calling. It is a lamentable fact that assistants at branch libraries are often (quite undeservedly) looked upon as inferior beings.

Distribution of Work.—In a district where there is one large central library and a series of small branches the staff should be treated as one, and the branches worked by the assistants in rotation. The administrative work should be centralised as much as possible and only routine work performed at the branches. But where, as in many of the London boroughs and in some of the larger towns, the branch libraries are larger than many of the central libraries elsewhere, it is better to have a qualihed branch or district librarian in charge of the library, and all the work appertaining to that particular library should as far as possible be performed at the library. In the former case centralise; in the latter de-centralise.

Catalogues.—In my opinion a separate catalogue for each library is the best, but a complete collection of the catalogues of all the libraries in the district or a master catalogue on cards or in slip book form should be kept at each library for reference purposes. A printed master catalogue is theoretically very nice, but it makes a bulky and expensive catalogue, and the readers get confused with the numbers. With more than four libraries in one district a printed master catalogue would, I think, be difficult, unless the stock of books in each library was similar; a course with which I entirely disagree.

Stock of Books.—The stock of books in a series of libraries should be as comprehensive as possible. The popular works would of course be more or less duplicated, but with the less used and more expensive works it should be the endeavour to obtain a selection of the best authorities upon a certain subject and distribute them amongst the libraries, rather than obtain several copies of a book by one authority. By this means the borrowers have a much wider range of books to select from and can study a subject in its varying phases.

Availability of Tickets.—The borrowers' tickets should be available for use at either of the libraries, but I question the advisability of allowing borrowers to obtain tickets from more than one library at a time. The libraries should be all connected by telephone, so that it could be ascertained whether a certain book was in at one of the other libraries, and perhaps save a borrower a fruitless journey. Where the libraries are situated near a tramway route, arrangements might be made with the tramway authorities to act as messengers.

Status of the Librarian.—Where a branch library is sufficiently large to require a separate staff the norarian should be considered at least on an equality with the sub-librarian at the central library. He is often called upon to use his discretion and act in difficult cases on his own initiative. He should have complete control over his staff, and the chief librarian should take him into his confidence on matters affecting his branch. Of course the branch librarian on his part must not abuse the confidence of his chief, and must realise their relative positions. At Croydon, I believe, the chief librarian and his senior assistants have a round table conference occasionally to consider suggestions for improving the library service.

General Observations.—With branch libraries, as with everything else connected with library administration, each case must be considered accord-

ing to local circumstances, and one can only speak in general terms; but the system of classification, cataloguing, and issuing should be the same in all the libraries under the one authority. In conclusion, I must apologise for my scrappy and disjointed notes, and trust that though my remarks have been very poor and brief, they may suggest something for a good discussion.

Discussion.

Mr. Davis, in opening the discussion, said that the limitations of the rate prevented libraries doing all that they might in providing branch libraries. Branches, however, were of the greatest use. It was desirable that they should be connected by telephone, but there was sometimes difficulty in conveying the books from one library to another.

Mr. Hogg spoke of the necessity for branches, and thought that they should be situated not more than a mile apart. A branch need not be so elaborately equipped as the central library and a reference library was not necessary, as readers would be fully provided for at the central library. He did not think readers were justified in asking that books should be sent from one library to another for them. There should be one permanent official at each branch, but it was unfair to the junior members of the staff to keep them permanently at a branch.

Mr. Sayers said that branches were a necessary evil. They seldom gave satisfaction for the reason that every reader wanted a central library in his district. The difficulty of exchanging books had been referred to, but in places where the libraries were on the main tram routes there was no difficulty. Each branch should have a different stock of books, and there should be a union catalogue. A permanent staff was desirable, otherwise the staff could not keep in touch with the readers.

Mr. Councillor Luscombe (Wandsworth) in the course of some remarks said he was gratified to see with what enthusiasm assistants discussed matters with which they were concerned. He was also pleased to see that their first consideration was for the public.

Mr. Hawkins thought that if each library had a different stock of books, and the members of the staff worked at each library in turn, they would have an opportunity of becoming acquainted with all the books in the libraries. Mr. Dallimore had not expressed any views as to the centralisation of work. He thought it was desirable that the work of each branch should be done at the branch, in order that the staff might gain experience.

Mr. Cooper thought that a library was necessary for every 30,000 people. While it was an advantage to have the libraries near the main road, it was desirable for many reasons that they should be situated in a quiet locality. Branch libraries were certainly preferable to delivery stations.

Mr. Bursill contended that all libraries in densely populated towns should be equal in size and importance. Often what was called a branch did quite as important a work as the central library. He was in favour of the junior members of the staff rotating.

Mr. Peters thought that branch librarians should have full power to select and purchase books for their mararies, inasmuch as they were acquainted with the needs of the borrowers.

Mr. Lewin (Port Elizabeth) described the various sources from which the income of the libraries in South Africa was derived. The libraries, he said, were supported partly by subscriptions and partly by Government grant. The libraries were open free to all, except that the loan of books was restricted to subscribers. Mr. Sureties said it was generally agreed that there should be one branch for every 40,000 people in densely populated districts, and one for every 25,000 people in scattered districts; that they should be placed about one mile apart, and that no library with an income of less than $\pounds \tau$,500 per annum should attempt to provide a branch.

Mr. Sumner said that the objection to changing the staff at the branches was that just as an assistant was getting to know the books in the library to which he was attached he was moved to another library.

Mr. Young thought that all assistants should have a training at the central library under the Chief Librarian. Branch libraries should not be established unless they could be maintained efficiently. A branch was often equal to the central library, as the librarian was able to bring to bear upon its equipment experience gained in the organisation of the central library.

An interesting meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Mr. Councillor Gridley for presiding, and to Mr. Davis for his kind hospitality.

CONFERENCE OF EDUCATIONAL AND LIBRARY AUTHORITIES.

At the last meeting of the Committee, the L.A.A. delegate to the above Conference submitted the following report:—
Gentlemen.

At your request I attended the Conference of Library and Educational Authorities held at Birmingham on 3rd May, 1906, under the auspices of the Library Association.

The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Birmingham presided, and delivered a short opening address on the Uses of Public Libraries, after which Mr. H. R. Teduer made a very able statement setting forth the work and objects of the Library Association. He also moved the following resolution:—

"That as the Public Library should be recognised as forming part of the national educational machinery, it is desirable that children from an early age should become accustomed to the use of collections of books in special children's libraries, and that advanced students should be able to obtain in Public Libraries the principal books recommended by various teaching bodies."

This was seconded by Mr. Cary Gilson, Headmaster of the King Edward Grammar School, and after an animated discussion was carried unanimously.

Councillor T. C. Abbott, of Manchester, then moved and Alderman S. Edwards, of Birmingham, seconded:—

"That this Conference is of opinion that the time has arrived for promoting legislation in reference to the following objects, viz.:-

(a) To empower County Councils to put the Public Libraries Acts into operation and to organise library systems for the areas under their jurisdiction.

(b) That having regard to the increasing demands made upon the resources of Public Library authorities throughout the country during recent years for educational work, it is of the greatest importance that the Public Libraries Acts should be amended so as to remove the present limitation of the library rate.

(c) To exempt Public Libraries from the payment of local rates." This resolution was also carried unanimously.

After a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor the delegates were entertained to tea in the Reception Rooms by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, and thus the first of what may be a series of local Conferences

came to a pleasant termination.

The impression, however, that the proceedings were of a somewhat futile character was felt by many who were present, including your delegate. The result of the afternoon's work was merely the expression of a number of pious opinions, and it is not easy to see what good can come of it. Moreover, nearly the whole of the discussion was from the librarian's standpoint, whereas it would have been distinctly advantageous had the Educational authorities been afforded fuller opportunities of stating their views. The library representatives seemed more concerned with pointing out the inability of library committees to provide adequate children's libraries than in considering a via media whereby they might be brought into existence.

The importance of co-operative work between Educational and Library Authorities, the possibility of the former financing and the latter managing the children's libraries when formed, the question as to whether the books should be housed in the schools or the libraries or both, and the equally important question as to how far school discipline should affect the issue of books if the libraries were in the schools were only superficially touched upon.

W. GEO. CHAMBERS.

OBITUARY.

Members of the L.A.A., and in particular those who knew him personally will regret to hear of the death on April 15th, at the age of 47 years, of Mr. Horace Wensley Kirk, late sub-librarian of the Chetham

Library, Manchester.

Mr. Kirk was a much esteemed member of the late North-Western Branch of the L.A.A., at the meetings of which his presence was always very welcome. Whenever he joined in the discussions it was to speak with a conviction arising from a thoughtful consideration of the subject and guided by high principle. By nature he was generous and kindly, adevoid of anything approaching undue self-assertion. Out of library hours we knew—but not from his telling—that he was a devoted church worker in a poor Manchester parish. His death will be felt as a personal loss by all who knew him, and the writer, for one, will never again enter the old-time Chetham Library without a thought of the kindly greeting and willing service of its late Sub-Librarian, who, with his quaint touch of humour and spare figure somehow reminded one of Charles Lamb.

J. H. S.

RESIGNATION OF THE HON. SECRETARY.

Every member of the Association will share our regret at the impending resignation of Ar. G. E. Roebuck, who has decided to give up the reins of office at the Annual Meeting. Mr. Roebuck has held the position for five years with distinct advantage to the Association and with credit to himself, and the present satisfactory state of affairs is largely due to his efforts. It will be apparent to all that the office of Hon. Secretary of an Association such as the L.A.A. is no sinecure; the duties are onerous and the performance of them requires considerable ability and tact. Mr. Roebuck has applied himself to the duties with a devotion which is rare, and an enthusiasm which he has imparted to every member of the Committee.

It is some compensation to know that Mr. Roebuck is not severing his connection with the Association, and we feel sure that as a private member he will continue to serve assistants as faithfully as he has served

them in his official capacity.

THE LIBRARY WORLD AND THE L.A.A

The Library World for May makes a wholly discreditable and undignified attack upon the Library Assistant and the Library Assistants' Association, and although we are not disposed to give undue prominence to the matter, members are justified in looking to us to defend ourselves against the accusations made.

Presumably the remarks to which the Library World—constituting itself champion of the Library Association—takes exception are contained in a letter which appeared in our May number. This letter was simply a warning to candidates from one who has himself obtained some of the certificates of the Library Association, and who was a candidate at the recent examination, to be prepared for a more severe test this year, and he assures us that the rumour to which he drew attention was persistent. Our correspondent is well able to take care of himself, but we deny that to the unprejudiced mind there was anything in the letter which reflected in any way upon the examiners of the Library Association. Moreover, while our correspondence columns are open to all, it does not follow that the Association is responsible for the opinions expressed therein.

What we are chiefly concerned about is the charge which the Library World makes against the Library Assistant in referring to "the frequent appearance of querulous and unfounded criticisms of the educational work of the Library Association." We challenge the Library World to point to one single instance where we have, in any way, belittled the educational work of the Library Association, or where our criticism has not been strictly fair, honourable, and in good taste. We claim that the Library Assistant has done more than any other professional journal to advertise, and to urge the importance of the classes, examinations and summer schools of the Library Association, inasmuch as it is the only journal which regularly and systematically reaches those for whom these educational facilities are intended.

The Library World ostensibly professes a regard for all movements which have for their aim the advancement of the profession, but never loses an opportunity of ridiculing the good work which the L.A.A. is doing, and we would suggest to the proprietors that it would be well to exercise some control over those to whom they entrust the conduct of their journal. The Library Association, we feel confident, is not associated with the latest attack—an attack which must be distasteful to all fair-minded members of that body. [Editor, L.A.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

(To the Editor of the "Library Assistant.")

Annotations in Catalogues.

Sir

The growing popularity and use of annotations in Library catalogues is a pleasing feature of modern library economy, and one that has certainly "come to stay." Recognising the great difficulty of properly annotating a catalogue, we make allowances for a poorly annotated specimen when one comes our way, and have quite a respect for the compiler of one that is well annotated—a rara avis! That some compilers do not seem to know what an annotation is, one or two recent catalogues seem to show. One sample which has been termed annotated lies before me, and although reviewers in professional and literary journals have lauded it as being "well-annotated," on examining it we find that true annotations are almost an unknown quantity. What the compiler has passed off on his unobserving

critics and confrères as annotations are for the most part sub-titles in nonpareil! Professional etiquette alone locality from whence this production hies. are worth retaining and which cannot be got into the same line as the title, it is the practice of many libraries to give them underneath the entry in inverted commas, and nonpareil type. This method does not deceive.

VIATOR.

St. Mungo, 4th May, 1906.

The Library Association Examinations, 1906.

Dear Sir,

As a candidate at the recent examinations (London Centre) may I be permitted to call attention to the lack of consistency which arose in regard to the time limitation. Many candidates sacrificed neatness, etc., in their endeavours to conclude the work within the specified time, only to learn later that extra time was granted, which, whilst noted, was not likely to affect the standard of marking if the work was correspondingly full—or something to that effect. Surely, in fairness to all, the time limit should be enforced or marks should be deducted for over-time.

Further, it is not much encouragement for assistants to sit at an exam, where the supervision is entrusted to a library assistant who is himself an aspirant to the Diploma, and a junior in rank to a sitting candidate from his own library district.

FAIR PLAY.

May 21st, 1906

APPOINTMENTS.

*Burgess, Mr. W., Assistant, Bootle, to be Assistant, Birkenhead.

*Faraday, Mr. J. G., Sub-Librarian, Hornsey, to be Librarian, Stroud Green Branch Library, Hornsey.

HAIR, Mr. A., Sub-Librarian, Tynemouth, to be Librarian.

HILSON, Mr. J. L., Librarian, Jedburgh, to be Librarian, Kelso.

*WILLIAMS, Mr. R. G., Assistant, Wallasey, to be Senior Assistant, Bolton.

*YATES, Mr. A. H., Junior Assistant, Hornsey, to be Senior Assistant.

STORIE, Mr. W. A., Branch Librarian, Upper Norwood, to be Chief Cataloguing Assistant, Adelaide, South Australia.

*Wells, Mr. C., Senior Assistant, Hove, to be Chief Assistant, Norfolk and Norwich Library, Norwich.

ROBERTS, Mr. H. D., late Librarian, St. Saviour's, Southwark, to be Chief Librarian and Superintendent of the Public Library, Museums and Art Galleries, Brighton.

[The other selected candidates were: Messrs. Charlton Deas (Sunderland), Dougan (Oxford), and Taylor (Bristol).]

* Member of the L.A.A.

NEW MEMBERS.

Senior: Mr. H. B. Parkinson, Burnley Co-operative Society Library. Junior: Miss M. Marchant, Fulham; Miss A. Thomas, Fulham; Mr. A. C. Dunn, Cheltenham.

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ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

(Submitted at the Annual Meeting, June 20th, 1906.)

With the close of the Eleventh Session, the retiring Officers and Committee present their Report.

The tendency of each of the Annual Reports has been to show a marked increase in the usefulness of our organisation, and it is pleasing to the retiring Executive to be in a position to assert that the Eleventh Session witnessed a corresponding service to our membership and to the profession generally.

Perhaps no previous Session has been marked by such enthusiastic meetings, such lively debates, and such pronounced purpose as that which is now concluding. The ability of Mr. Sayers is reflected in this department of our work. No Education Secretary could have done more than he has to advance the tone and service of our monthly meetings. The Executive Committee has been engaged with matters of considerable weight, the growing recognition of our body bringing its official representatives into touch with most of the forces which are at work for the advance of Librarianship in Great Britain.

One of the principal events of the year was the decision as to the position we were to occupy with regard to the Library Association. The L.A.A. received an invitation to affiliate itself with the older Association, and the Committee takes this opportunity of expressing its appreciation of the honour proffered to the L.A.A. in that invitation. The matter received the gravest deliberation, and in the end a plebiscite of the membership was taken with the result that the proposal was negatived by a small majority. The invitation was significant, however, showing the favour with which the older body is prepared to regard our activities, and if some regret may be felt that the offer was not accepted we must remember that, as an independent Association, the L.A.A. felt that it was better prepared to undertake those responsibilities for which it was founded.

As is generally the case on such occasions as the present, it is difficult to know where to draw the line, but this Report would not be complete without mention of the kind services which your Executive has received at the hands of several librarians and local authorities during the period under review. The thanks of the Association are specially due to the Councils of Battersea, Croydon, Hornsey, Shoreditch, Stepney, Stoke Newington, Westminster, and West Ham; and the Governors of the Bishopsgate and Cripplegate Foundations for accommodation, and to those local gentlemen whose kind interest has been such a lever to the success of the Session, to say nothing of the comfort of their guests. The profound interest which these gentlemen have evinced in our proceedings and object augurs well for succeeding years.

Under the enthusiastic leadership of the Chairman the campaign for an augmented membership has been constant, and it is gratifying to be able to draw attention to the results of these endeavours, over sixty new members having been elected during the year.

In the capable hands of Mr. Hugh Smith our official organ, "The Library Assistant," has maintained its standard of impartiality and reliability. The Committee, as in previous years, asks for greater support so that the scope of the journal may be profitably enlarged.

The social side of our activities is deserving of report also. The Eighth Annual Dinner, held in November, was a conspicuous success both from the point of numbers attending and from the prominence of those

gentlemen who were present on the occasion. Mr. Bursill worked hard to bring this function into line with those of former years, and there can be no doubt that the excellent arrangements and the large attendance place

this social item in the foremost rank of our like endeavours.

The Committee takes this opportunity of bringing before the notice of members the possible usefulness of the L.A.A. Library, which under the energetic librarianship of Mr. Carter is growing into a goodly collection of the very books which every assistant needs at some period or other of his training. These books are acquired for the benefit of our members, and may be freely borrowed. Additions to the collection are appealed for, and offers to bind would be heartily appreciated by the officers concerned.

Thanks are recorded to donors to the Library, and the Committee undertakes that their kind assistance shall have every opportunity of

serving the purpose intended.

If there is one note of regret it is that your Committee cannot record the foundation of a Provincial Circuit during the past year. Local enterprise has not been lacking, but the difficulty encountered in distance from a common meeting place has so far retarded the movement. It is hoped that the next Session will witness the foundation of several of these local circuits, and provincial members are urged to devise means for enabling the London Committee to be of service in all quarters of the Kingdom,

There is still good room for the development of the Study Circle, Ever-circulator, and similar activities which have for their object the service of the isolated members, and the Committee always welcomes

applications for the inception of these ventures

Our members have had another successful year as regards appointments; and the best wishes of the L.A.A. go out to all members who during the past year have been appointed to higher positions. It is unnecessary to recapitulate these appointments-they have already been duly

The Association has lost an ardent supporter and firm friend in the late Dr. Garnett. Many are the associations which link his name with the rise of our organisation, and the reverence he received whilst it was our good fortune to have him in our midst will be strengthened as year by year we perpetuate his name amongst those who helped us to the utmost

of their abilities.

Your Secretary, Mr. Roebuck, at this meeting lays down the pen of office. For some considerable time he has found it extremely difficult to cope with the increasing duties attaching to this office, and it is not without much regret that he finds it necessary to record his resignation of a post which has proved the greatest of pleasures in the past Sessions. The Committee desires to place on record its appreciation of the services of Mr. Roebuck during the five years he has held office, believing that no small part of the advance of the Association is due to his initiative.

The past year has witnessed the co-option of junior representatives to the Committee, a regulation which it is hoped will be productive of good,

both to the Association and to the junior members themselves.

No attempt has been made in this Report to notice specially the particular items of the Sessional meetings, as a list of such is appended; but the Committee wishes to express its thanks to all contributors.

Added hereto will be found in addition to the record of meetings, an audited Balance Sheet of Receipts and Expenditure, an item which speaks volumes for Mr. Chambers in his capacity of Treasurer; a list of members of the Committee and Officers; and the membership roll of the Association.

Signed, on behalf of the Executive Committee

W. GEO. CHAMBERS, Chairman. GEO. E. ROEBUCK, Hon. Secretary.

May 23rd, 1906.

LIST OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE (ELEVENTH SESSION).

Committee:

§ Bullen, R. F., Bow Library, Poplar.

‡Bursill, P. C., Woolwich.

[Checketts, H. W., Birmingham University Library.

Coutts, H. T., Islington.

Dallimore, F., Wimbledon.

† Faraday, J., Central Library, Hornsey.

§ Green, T., Central Library, Shoreditch.

* Harper, B. J., Stoke Newington.

Harris, W. J., Stroud Green Library, Hornsey.

1 Hatcher, S. A., Canning Town Library, West Ham.

[†] Hogg, J. F., Central Library, Battersea.

McDouall, W. B., Shepherd's Bush Library, Hammersmith.

1 Matthews, E. H., Exeter.

§ Poulter, H. W., Walthamstow.

Rees, E. G., Westminster.

§ Rivers, J., Central Library, Hampstead.

|| Sayers, W. C. B., Central Library, Croydon.

§ Smith, H., Bishopsgate Institute.

†† Stephen, G. A., Bishopsgate Institute.

§ Sureties, H. G., Highgate Library, Hornsey.

§ Thorne, W. B., Bromley Library, Poplar.

lucation Sub-Committee. § Publications Sub-Committee. ‡ Finance and General Purposes Sub-Committee.

Chairman and Hon. Treasurer:

W. Geo. Chambers, Plumstead Library, Woolwich.

Vice-Chairman:

W. B. Thorne, Bromley Library, Poplar.

Hon. Secretary:

G. E. Roebuck, St. George's Library, Stepney.

Hon. Librarian:

A. H. Carter, St. Martin's Library, Westminster.

Hon. Editor:

Hugh Smith, Bishopsgate Institute.

ATTENDANCES OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE.

Name.				GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS.		SUB- COMMITTEE MEETINGS.		TOTAL OF MEETINGS.	
Bullen, R. F.		***			Attnd'd	Conv'd	Attnd'd 10	Conv'd	Attnd'a
Bursill, P. C.		***	***	11	- 8	9	8	20	16
Chambers, W. G.				11	9	31	25	42	34
Coutts, H. T.	***	***		11	8	7	5	18	13
Dallimore, F.	***	***		11	5	7	4	18	9
Faraday, J.		**		11	6	9	6	20	12
Green, T				11	4	10	4	21	8
Harper, B. J.		***		3	0	3	0	6	0
Harris, W. J.		***		9	7	7	5	16	12
Hatcher, S. A.	***	***		10	9	9	9	19	18
Hogg, J. F.				11	7	9	6	20	13
McDouall, W. B.		***		11	6	9	5	20	11
Poulter, H. W.	***	***		11	10	11	10	22	20
Rees, E. G.	***	***		11	7	9	6	20	13
Rivers, J		***		10	3	10	3	20	6
Roebuck, G. E.	***	***		11	11	7	7	18	18
Sayers, W. C. B.				11	9	7	5	18	14
Smith, H	***			11	11	11	11	22	22
Stephen, G. A.	***	***		7	7	6	6	13	13
Sureties, H. G.	***	***		11	7	11	7	22	14
Thorne, W. B.	***			11	11	11	11	22	22

Note.—Attendance of Members residing outside the Metropolitan Area is not recorded.

PROGRAMME OF SESSION 1905-06.

- Oct. 18th. Inaugural meeting at London School of Economics. Address by Thomas J. Macnamara, Esq., M.P., LL.D., on "The Relation of the Public Library to Public Education."
- Nov. 16th. At Stoke Newington Public Library.
 - Papers: Senior—Mr. J. D. Stewart (Croydon). "School Libraries."

 Mr. H. T. Coutts (Croydon).

 Children in the Library."

Iunior-Mr. D. I. Bayley (Poplar), "Counter Work,"

- Dec. 6th. At Hornsey Central Public Library.
 - Papers: Senior—Mr. J. G. Faraday (Hornsey). "Weeding out." Junior—Mr. A. Hatcher (West Ham). "Stocktaking methods."

1906.

- Jan. 17th. At Canning Town Public Library.
 - Papers: Senior-Mr. C. F. Newcombe (Camberwell). "Library Lectures and Extension Work."

Junior-Mr. E. J. Bell (Fulham). "Newsrooms."

- Feb. 7th.—At St. Bride Institute, E.C. General meeting to discuss the question of affiliating with the Library Association. Pro, Mr. W. C. Berwick Sayers (Cròydon). Con, Mr. G. E. Roebuck (St. George-in-the-East).
- Mar 14th. At Croydon Central Public Library.
 - Papers: Senior-Mr. W. J. Harris (Hornsey). "The Planning of an Ideal Library."
 - Mr. W. C. Berwick Sayers (Croydon). "Contrasts in planning."
 - Junior-Mr. J. Warner (Croydon). "First years of Reference Work."
- April 18th. At Battersea Central Public Library.
 - Paper: Senior—Mr. P. C. Bursill (Woolwich). "The Treatment of Periodical Publications."

Impromptu.

- May 17th. At Wandsworth Public Library.
 - Papers: Senior—Mr. S. A. Hatcher (Canning Town). "Branch Libraries."
 - Mr. F. Dallimore (Wimbledon). "Branch Libraries."
 - Junior-Mr. G. R. Bolton (Fulcam). "Work at the shelves,"
- June 20th. Eleventh Annual Meeting. Visit to British Museum. Evening meeting at St. Bride Institute, E.C. Paper by Mr. W. Powell (Birmingham) on "Librarianship in the future" and Annual Business Meeting.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1905-6.

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Expenditure.		Printing 64 13	Stationery	Reporting Inaugural Meeting	Hire of Room	Loss on Annual Dinner	Postages 21 13	Miscellaneous	Balance 16 10		बर
	d.	6	0		9					-	23
	só	14	0		0						1073
	48	29	42		43						£114 15 3
Receipts.		Balance 29 14	Members' Subscriptions 42 0	Advertisements in, and sale of 'Library	Assistant " 43 0 6						43

W. A. PEPLOW, Auditors. J. D. YOUNG. Audited by us and found correct-May 24th, 1906.

Hon, Treasurer. W. GEO. CHAMBERS,

LIST OF MEMBERS.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

Samuel J. Clarke. Bertram L. Dyer. Thomas Greenwood. J. Y. W. MacAlister, F.S.A. Henry Ogle.
R. A. Peddie.
F. Meaden Roberts.
H. Tapley Soper, F.R. Hist.S.

Charles Welch, F.S.A.

ORDINARY MEMBERS.

*Anderson, A. A. Port R., Elizabeth. Avery, A. J., Erith.

*Ayton, J. G., Glasgow.
Bacon, S., Stepney.

*Bailey, J., Hampstead.

*Bain, R., Glasgow
Ballingall, W. S., Camberwell. Bainingall, W. S., Camberwell *Barlow, H., London Library. Barr, J., Glasgow. *Batty, T. W. E., Fulham. Bayley, D. J., Poplar. Bell, E. J., Fulham. Bellamy, A. E., Stoke Newington.

*Bennett, G., Hampstead.

*Bennett, W. J., Tottenham.
Bishop, E., Woolwich.
Blakey, A. A., Bermondsey.

*Bolton, G. R., Fulham.

*Bonner, F. H., Croydon.

*Boyton, Miss, Kimberley.

*Brace, W., Shoreditch.

*Bradley, C. A., Glasgow.

*Broadhurst, H. P., Stockport.
Brown, R. L., Wimbledon.

*Brown, R. W., Northampton.

*Brunt, H. S., Buxton.
Buckingham, S. H., East. Buckingham, S. H., East. bourne. Bull, Miss G. M., Battersea, Bullen, M.S. G. M., Dattersea.
*Bullen, R. F., Poplar.
*Burgess, W., Birkenhead.
*Bursill, P. C., Woolwich.
*Bushnell, F. C., Fulham.
Cadman, C. R., Poplar.
*Camplin, P. W., Heston-Isleworth. Carlisle, A. D., Woolwich.

*Carpenter, H., Fulham.

*Carter, A. H., Westminster.

*Carter, E. G. H., Deptford.

*Carter, W. A., Cripplegate Institute.

*Cashmore, H. M., B'gham. Chambers, H., West Ham. *Chambers, W. G., Woolwich. *Checketts, H. W., Birmingham University. *Churchill, G. B., Upper Nor-*Clinch, C. H., Ealing. *Cogswell, A., Wandsworth. Coleman, B. W., Bishopsgate Institute. *Cooper, R., Battersea.
Cornwall, F. W., Croydon.
Cousins, L. H., Wandsworth.
*Coutts, H. T., Islington.
Cox, H. J., Portsmouth. *Crockford, A. W., Richmond. Crook, B., Leyton.
Crossby, J. W., West Ham.
Cudlip, F., Bishopsgate Inst.
Dallimore, F., Wimbledon.
*Davis, A. H., Southampton. *Davis, A. H., Southampton.
Davison, C. E., Bermondsey.
Denne, G. E., Richmond.
*Denton, A., Chelsea.
Dixon, H., Kendal.
Dixon, Miss L., Leyton.
Dodd, E. C., Hornsey.
*Dovey, L. G., Westminster.
Dunn, A. C., Cheltenham.
Easlea, W. A., Bishopsgate Institute. *Edward, D. E., Dundee. *Edwards, A. H., Liverpool. *Eidmans, F., Bermondsey. *Ellison, J. B., Leeds. *Faraday, J. G., Hornsey. Fisher, S. W., East Ham. *Fletcher, E., Stepney. Fostall, H., Bromley, Kent Fry, G., Bournemouth. *Fudge, A. H., Lewisham. Funnell, E. A., Deptford, Furmidge, C., Kimberley, Furmidge, P., Kimberley, *Garner, E. W., Southwark. Garrett, A., Westminster. *Gates, C., Croydon.

*Gilbert, Miss M., Fulham.
*Glazier, T. W., Wandsworth.
*Gourley, R. J., Belfast.
*Green, T., Shoreditch.
Greig, T. P., Westminster.
*Hall, S. B., Lambeth.
Hamblyn, A. M., Eastbourne.
*Hardy, W., Burton-on-Trent.
*Harnan, F. T., Camberwell.
*Harper, B. J., Stoke Newing-Harradine, F. C., Poplar, *Harris, C. A., Deptford. *Harris, C. A., Deptiord.
*Harrison, S. E., Cheltenham,
Hatcher, A. F., Bolton.
*Hatcher, S. A., West Ham.
*Hawkins, W. G., Fulham.
Haworth, A. G., Chorley,
Henderson, H., Liverpool. Henley, C., Poplar.
Henley, C., Poplar.
Henshaw, R., East Ham.
*Hobbs, H. J., Enfield.
Hodgson, J., Tottenham.
*Hogg, J. F., Battersea.
*Holker, H., Eccles. *Holker, H., Eccles.
*Holmes, H., Handsworth.
Hoyle, Miss M. J., Widnes.
Hughes, C. T., Woolwich.
Illesley, H. B., Smethwick.
*Jackson, C. P., Woolwich.
Jacobs, J. V., Richmond.
Johnson, A. L., Stepney. *Jones, G. P., Stepney. *King, H. J., Poplar. Kirby, S., Hornsey. Kirby, S., Hornsey.
Kitchener, S., Hornsey.
Laughton, S., Derby.
*Law, W., Brighton.
*Lawler, E. A., Westminster.
Lea, Miss E., Wigan.
Legg, Miss W., Battersea.
*Lewin, P. E., Port Elizabeth.
Lockyear, A. W., Woolwich.
*Loney, R., Stepney.
Luck, F. J., Penge.
*Luke, E., Woolwich.
McCarthy, J. G., Stepney.
*McDouall, W. B., Hammersmith. smith. *McGilchrist, J., M.A., Wallasey. *McGill, W., Glasgow. *McKenzie, W. M., Aberdeen McLaren, F. W., Walthamstow. *Macleod, R. D., Glasgow. *Male, E., Brighton. Marchant, Miss M., Fulham. *Martin, E. S., Twickenham. *Mash, M. H. B., Croydon.

*Matthews, E. H., Exeter.
Miles, W. S., Westminster.
Moon, Miss J. B., Leyton.
Moore, A. H. E., Barrow.
*Moors, B. R., Portsmouth.
Morgan, Miss G. M., Shoreditch. *Mortimore, P. J., Camberwell.
*Moslin, A. M., Stepney.
Neame, C. E., Canterbury.
Newey, R. H., Handsworth.
Nicol, H., Greenock. *Norman, S. C., Wandsworth. *Norman, S. C., Wandsworth.

*Norrie, J., Glasgow.

Nowell, C., Kendal.

Owen, W., Poplar.

*Parker, E. J., Westminster.

Parker, S. J., Bishopsgate Inst.

*Parker, W. H., Woolwich.

*Parkinson, H. B., Burnley Co-Operative Society Library. *Persons, E. H., Fulham.

*Parsons, E. H., Glasgow.
Peacock, R. L., Croydon.

*Peplow, W. A., Croydon.

*Peters, H. R. W., Lewisham. Philpott, G., Stepney.
Pike, R. A., Great Yarmouth.
*Piper, A. C., Brighton.
Pollard, A., Poplar. *Polley, G. E., Westminster. *Port, F. G. A., Camberwell. Posford, E., Stepney.

*Poulter, H. W., Walthamstow,

*Powell, T. W., Kingston.

Pugsley, Miss N. L., Bristol. *Radcliffe, J., East Ham. Radley, R. H., East Ham. *Rathbone, B. E., Northampton. *Rathbone, B. E., Northampton. Redgrave, S. J., Croydon. *Rees, E. G., Westminster. Rees, W. C., Battersea. *Rivers, J., Hampstead. Robarts, H. M., Walthamstow. Robeson, W. J., Penge. *Robinson, S. C., Greenwich. Institute. *Robinson, F., Ipswich.

*Kobinson, S. C., Greenwich.

*Roebuck, G. E., Stepney.
Saltmarsh, F. C., Tottenham.
Sawtell, H. C., Wimbledon.

*Sayers, W. C. B., Croydon.
Searle, S. E., Shoreditch. Searson, J., Glasgow. *Seidel, F. L., Kensal Rise. *Seward, F., Bromley, Kent. *Shawcross, W. H., Woolwich Sims, A., Bournemouth.

*Smith, Miss A., Paddington.

*Smith, H., Bishopsgate Inst.

*Smith, J., Johannesburg.
Smith, W. T., Wimbledon.

*Stephen, G. A., Bishopsgate
Institute.

*Stevens, H., Camberwell.

*Stevenson, H., Bournemouth.

*Stewart, J. D., Islington.

*Stone, O. W., East Ham.

*Sumner, B. E., Hampstead.

*Sunley, W. H., Leyton.

*Sureties, H. G., Hornsey.

Swift, H. G., Wallasey.

Tempest, H., Bootle.

Terry, E., Woolwich.

Thomas, Miss A., Fulham.

Thomas, C. E., Bishopsgate
Institute.

*Thompson, E., Barrow.

*Thorne, W. B., Poplar.

Turner, C., Deptford.

Turner, H. J., Westminster.

Twort, H. A., Croydon.

*Usherwood, V. B., Woolwich.
Vale, G. F., Stepney.

*Verney, Sir E., Middle Claydon.

*Waite, C. H., Kensington.
Wakeman, F., Kidderminster.
Wale, J. H., Woolwich.
Warner, J., Croydon.

*Welch, H. C., Guildhall.

*Wells, C., Norwich.
Welham, H. G., West Ham.

*White, G. H., Fulham.
Whitehead, J., Greenock.

*Whitwell, C., West Ham.
Williams, Miss L., Bangor.

*Williams, R. G., Bolton.

*Williams, R. G., Bolton.

*Williams, W., Bootle.

*Wood, R. B., Westminster.

*Wood, R. B., Westminster.

*Yates, A. G., Hornsey.

Young, D. S., East Ham.

*Young, J. D., Greenwich.

* Senior member.